

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Subg/ Claims 1-53 (Cancelled).

54. (previously presented) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving information identifying a first level of random access functionality selected by a first user for a first program that is to be provided to the first user at a future time; and

allocating bandwidth to a plurality of auxiliary digital transmission channels responsive to at least the information, wherein the plurality of auxiliary digital transmission channels enable random access functionality for programs transmitted via a plurality of other digital transmission channels.

F 55. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein each of the plurality of auxiliary channels enables random access functionality for a plurality of other digital transmission channels.

Claims 56-67 (Cancelled).

68. (amended) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user for implementing a random access function; and
responsive to receiving the request, providing the user with a first selectable option and a second selectable option, wherein selecting the first selectable option results in the random access function being implemented after a first time period and selecting the second selectable option results in the random access function being implemented after a second time period that is substantially shorter than the first time period.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein selecting the second option results in additional expense for the user.

70. (amended) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of requests from a user for implementing a plurality of respective random access functions;

enabling the plurality of respective random access functions; and

responsive to enabling the plurality of random access functions, communicating to the user an amount of bandwidth that has been consumed as a result of random access functionality that has been provided to the user.

~~communicating to the user a level of consumption of random access functionality responsive to enabling the plurality of respective random access functions.~~

71. (amended) The method of claim 70, wherein the amount of bandwidth consumed is communicated by providing a user with information about fees related to the random access functionality provided to the user. ~~wherein the user is provided with information indicating an expense incurred by the user for the plurality of respective random access functions.~~

72. (amended) The method of claim 70, wherein the amount of bandwidth consumed is communicated via a graphical representation. ~~wherein the user is provided with a graphical representation indicating the level of consumption of random access functionality.~~

Claims 73-82 (Cancelled).

83. (New) A system comprising:

a bandwidth allocation manager configured to allocate bandwidth to a plurality of auxiliary digital transmission channels responsive to at least information received from a subscriber, wherein the plurality of auxiliary digital transmission channels enable random access functionality for programs transmitted via a plurality of other digital transmission channels.

84. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein each of the plurality of auxiliary channels enables random access functionality for a plurality of other digital transmission channels.

85. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the information received from the subscriber identifies a level of random access functionality selected by the user for a program that is to be provided to the user at a future time.

86. (New) A digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising:

memory configured to store program code; and

a processor that is programmed by the program code to:

provide the user with a first selectable option and a second selectable option responsive to the DHCT receiving a request from a user for implementing a random access function, wherein selecting the first selectable option results in the random access function being implemented after a first time period and selecting the second selectable option results in the random access function being implemented after a second time period that is substantially shorter than the first time period.

87. (New) The DHCT of claim 86, wherein selecting the second option results in additional expense for the user.

88. (New) A digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising:

memory configured to store program code; and

a processor that is programmed by the program code to:

communicate to the user an amount of bandwidth that has been consumed as a result of random access functionality that has been provided to the user.

89. (New) The DHCT of claim 88, wherein the amount of bandwidth consumed is communicated via a graphical representation.

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90. (New) The DHCT of claim 88, wherein the amount of bandwidth consumed is communicated by providing a user with information about fees related to the random access functionality provided to the user.
